Financial crisis of farmers in Kerala

1979. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that many farmers ended their life in various regions of Kerala due to financial crisis during 2001;

(b) if so, the details regarding the total number of such cases and the remedial measures initiated to help farmers, so as to avoid such averments in future;

(c) whether there is any plan to provide short-term credit for seasonal farm operations to needy farmers; and

(d) if so, the details regarding the amount of grant proposed to various States in the current year, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) No report has been received from the Government of Kerala in this regard.

(c) Agricultural credit is being provided to the farmers through multi-agency network consisting of Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Cooperatives. There is already a system in existence whereby all these Rural Financial Agencies provide short-term credit for seasonal farm operations to the needy farmers in the State of Kerala.

(d) There is no proposal to provide grants to the States.

Declaring Andhra Pradesh as drought affected

1980. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the guidelines for declaration of a particular area as drought-affected;

(b) the areas or the States declared so far as drought-affected in 2001-2002, following these guidelines;

(c) whether it is a fact that a Central Team submitted a report on the conditions of deficit rainfall in Andhra Pradesh;

(d) if so, the recommendations of the team; and

(e) the action initiated by Government to come to the aid of the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Declaration of drought is done by the State Governments concerned taking into various factors including deficient rainfall and cropped area damaged.

(b) The Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka and Maharashtra have reported drought situation due to deficient rainfall during South-West Monsoon-2001.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The report of the Central Team was considered and in view of the balances available with the Government of Andhra Pradesh in the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF), it was decided that, to begin with, funds available in the CRF be utilized and that the situation could be reviewed at a later date. The State Government was suitably informed.

Procurement of Copra

1981. SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have ordered the procuring agencies to procure Copra from the cultivators;

(b) if so, when the order was issued and since when the procurement has started and at what prices; and

(c) the names of procurement agencies and the quantity procured so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India has issued directions to National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) on 3-4-2001 to procure Copra under Price Support Scheme (PSS) at the minimum support price of Rs. 3300/- per qtl for Milling Copra and Rs. 3550/- per qtl for Ball Copra during 2001 season. NAFED has in turn directed all State Designated Agencies on 16-4-2001 to